

West End Street Railway:
Cleveland Circle Car House
(Reservoir Car House)

Near Chestnut Hill Avenue and Beacon Street
Brookline, Massachusetts
Norfolk County

HAER No. MA-43

HAER
MASS
11-BROK,
5-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

WEST END STREET RAILWAY: CLEVELAND CIRCLE CAR HOUSE
(RESERVIOR CAR HOUSE)
HAER MA-43

HAER

MASS,

11-BROK

5-

Date: 1890, with later additions

Location: Near Chestnut Hill Avenue and Beacon Street, Brookline, Massachusetts

Designed by: Unknown

Owner: Demolished 1982

Significance: The Cleveland Circle Car House was a depot for the West End Street Railway, the first electric streetcar line in Boston, established in 1889. In the 1890s, this became the largest electric streetcar system in the nation. Frank Sprague electrified the original line, and by 1891, the company operated 217 miles of street railways, much the largest electrified trackage of any system in the country. The Car House was a wood frame building, and featured bracketed cornices and other classical revival detail.

Transmitted by: Monica E. Hawley